

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

THE FLORIDA BAR,

Petitioner,

v.

JOHN DANEIL ELLIS, JR.,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case  
No. SC-

The Florida Bar File  
No. 2019-30,222 (19A) (OSC)

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**PETITION FOR CONTEMPT AND ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE**

COMES NOW, The Florida Bar, by and through its undersigned attorney, pursuant to Rule 3-7.7(g) and petitions the Supreme Court of Florida to enter an order to show cause why Respondent herein should not be held in contempt of this court's orders entered in Supreme Court Case Numbers SC15-1085 and SC17-1826 and why Respondent should not be immediately disbarred. In support of its Petition, The Florida Bar would show as follows:

1. By Supreme Court Order, entered in Case Number SC15-1085, dated September 14, 2016, this Court suspended Respondent from the practice of law for three years, effective thirty days from the date of the order. The effective date of Respondent's suspension was October 14, 2016.
2. By Supreme Court Order, entered in Case Number SC17-1826, dated October 26, 2017, this Court suspended Respondent from the practice of law for

three years, *nunc pro tunc* to October 14, 2016. The effective date of Respondent's suspension was October 14, 2016. At the time of this Court's order, Respondent still was serving his suspension ordered in Case Number SC15-1085.

3. Respondent has not petitioned for reinstatement from his suspension in Case Numbers SC15-1085 and SC17-1826.

4. During all times material, Respondent was not employed in any capacity by an attorney licensed to practice law in Florida.

5. In or around August 2018, Horace Knight, a resident of Maryland, contacted Respondent seeking his assistance in preparing the necessary documents to probate his mother's estate through summary administration. The Affidavit of Horace Knight is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit A.

6. While suspended from the practice of law, Respondent agreed to prepare the necessary documents for Mr. Knight to execute and file with the probate court to convert his mother's probate matter to a summary administration case. The transcript of Respondent's sworn statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit B.

7. Respondent did not advise Mr. Knight that he was suspended from the practice of law. Respondent advised Mr. Knight that he was not practicing law at that time but agreed to review documents Mr. Knight asked to send him.

8. By email dated August 24, 2018, Mr. Knight sent Respondent copies of documents he previously filed with the court *pro se* and the court's order dated August 15, 2018 denying Mr. Knight's petition for disposition of property without administration and granting him twenty days to convert the matter to a summary administration case. A copy of said email is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit C.

9. Respondent prepared the Petition for Summary Administration, Notice to Creditors and Formal Notice to the Agency for Health. The Notice to Creditors contained the case number for another, unrelated probate. None of the documents indicated they had been prepared by a nonlawyer. See Exhibit B, the transcript of Respondent's sworn statement at Exhibit 8.

10. Respondent did not prepare any of the documents under the supervision of an attorney licensed to practice law in Florida.

11. Respondent sent the documents to Mr. Knight and advised him to him to sign and date the Petition For Summary Administration and send it by certified mail to the court. He also advised Mr. Knight to sign and date the Formal Notice to the Agency for Health located in Tallahassee, Florida and send it by certified mail. Respondent also advised Mr. Knight to contact the Clerk for the Circuit Court after twenty days to check on the status of the Petition For Summary Administration. See Exhibit A, the Affidavit of Horace Knight.

12. Mr. Knight filed the documents prepared by Respondent with the court on September 5, 2018. Respondent did not advise Mr. Knight to seek the advice of an attorney licensed in the State of Florida prior to filing the documents with the probate court.

13. Respondent's conduct constitutes the unauthorized practice of law and violates this Court's orders in SC15-1085 and SC17-1826.

14. The other members of The Florida Bar should not have to pay for Respondent's noncompliance with this Court's order and the instant proceeding. Therefore, the Bar is requesting administrative costs of \$1,250.00 against Respondent.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests this Court enter an order compelling John Daneil Ellis, Jr. to show cause why he should not be held in contempt of this Court's Orders and disbarred immediately.

Respectfully submitted,



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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that this document has been E-filed with The Honorable John A. Tomasino, Clerk of the Supreme Court of Florida with a copy provided via email to Counsel for Respondent, Ralph Armstead, 511 W. South Street, Suite 210 Orlando, Florida 32805, [ralph@ralpharmsteadlaw.com](mailto:ralph@ralpharmsteadlaw.com), using the E-filing Portal; to Respondent, John Daneil Ellis, Jr., at [johnellispalaw@yahoo.com](mailto:johnellispalaw@yahoo.com) and [johnellis14@gmail.com](mailto:johnellis14@gmail.com), using the E-filing Portal, and that a copy has been furnished by United States Mail via certified mail No. 7160 3901 9843 2748 5515, return receipt requested to Respondent, John Daneil Ellis, Jr., whose record bar address is Law Office of John D. Ellis, Jr., P.A., Post Office Box 1161, Orlando, Florida 32802-1161, and to Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, Lake Shore Plaza II, 1300 Concord Terrace Suite 130, Sunrise, Florida 33323, via email at [aquintel@floridabar.org](mailto:aquintel@floridabar.org), on this 11th day of March, 2019.



Carrie Constance Lee, Bar Counsel

**NOTICE OF TRIAL COUNSEL AND DESIGNATION OF PRIMARY  
EMAIL ADDRESS**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the trial counsel in this matter is Carrie Constance Lee, Bar Counsel, whose address, telephone number and primary email address are The Florida Bar, Orlando Branch Office, The Gateway Center, 1000 Legion Place, Suite 1625, Orlando, Florida 32801-1050, (407) 425-5424 and [clee@floridabar.org](mailto:clee@floridabar.org) and [orlandooffice@floridabar.org](mailto:orlandooffice@floridabar.org). Respondent need not address pleadings, correspondence, etc. in this matter to anyone other than trial counsel and to Staff Counsel, The Florida Bar, Lakeshore Plaza II, Suite 130, 1300 Concord Terrace, Sunrise, Florida 33323, [aquintel@floridabar.org](mailto:aquintel@floridabar.org).